

District 28

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SENATOR MITCH SEABAUGH

MAJORITY WHIP
July 17, 2007

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations, Sub-Committee Chair
Finance
Regulated Industries and Utilities
Rules, Secretary
Judiciary, Ex Officio
Reapportionment and Redistricting, Secretary

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Georgia Music Hall of Fame
Georgia Film, Video, & Music Advisory
Commission

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

Re: WC Docket #05-337

Dear Chairman Martin:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the use of the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless service. I feel singling out wireless technology would be both unwise and unfair. Rural Americans deserve the same access to telecom services that are available in the rest of the country. Limiting the growth of the USF and/or unfairly targeting wireless technology in any cap would handicap rural communities' opportunity for economic growth. They would be deprived the same opportunities as their urban counterparts.

Consumers in rural parts of Georgia want and need expanded and improved wireless services; services that are beneficial for public safety, economic development, and business and personal needs. These are the benefits that Congress must have envisioned when it initially established the USF. Consumers deserve and need a competitive marketplace and a cap on these funds would narrow or prevent them from making choices.

I am aware there are growing concerns regarding controlling the USF; therefore, I respectfully request that you consider reforms that are fair and equitable to all providers, explore competitively neutral proposals to slow the USF growth, improve accountability, and above all continue producing policy for expanding and promoting telecom services in rural America.

Sincerely,

Mitch Seabaugh
Majority Whip
Georgia State Senate

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps, FCC
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, FCC
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, FCC
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell, FCC